

# Recreation Areas

**1. READFIELD BEACH.** This 8.7-acre recreation area on Maranacook Lake was acquired in 1988 by the town. Previously, it was run by a private association for 20 years. It offers a buoyed swim area with float, picnic facilities, volleyball court, and opportunities for family gatherings. Skating is popular in winter. The adjoining wetlands provide superlative habitat for aquatic wildlife. Passes available to residents for an annual fee at the Town Office. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.6 mile east on Main Street (Route 17). The beach parking lot is on the right.

**2. READFIELD FAIRGROUNDS.** From 1856 to 1932, Readfield Fairgrounds was home to one of Maine's most prestigious agricultural fairs. In 1993, the Town purchased 36 acres to create a recreation and conservation area near the village center. The area has a network of graveled trails for walking, nature study, and cross-country skiing that connect with trails on the Maranacook School Property and the village sidewalk. A ballfield is located near the Church Rd. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.3 mile north on Church Road. Parking area on right.

**3. FOGG FARM CONSERVATION AREA.** This 15-acre gem was part of the Fogg Farm for nearly two centuries. In the early 1990s, after the farm was subdivided it was donated to Readfield with a conservation easement to the Kennebec Land Trust. An easy loop trail winds through mixed forest uplands for 0.4 mile and a second loop adds an additional .2 mile. Trail and bridge work was done by Maranacook Community School Pathways students and the Readfield Conservation Commission. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, take the Church Road north 1 mile. Turn right (east) onto Fogg Road and go 0.6 mile. There is a green sign at the trailhead and parking along the left shoulder of the road.

**4. TORSEY POND NATURE PRESERVE.** In 2001, Readfield purchased 92 acres along Torsey Pond for open space and recreation with funds from the Maine Land & Water Conservation Fund, a town appropriation, and local contributions. A conservation easement was accepted by the Kennebec Land Trust in 2003 to assure permanent protection. The preserve is one of the richest biological areas in Readfield with mixed forest uplands, a mile of shoreline, and very significant wading bird and waterfowl habitat. There are two miles of walking trails with foot and bog bridges. **Directions:** From Kents Hill, go 1 mile north on Chimney Road (Route 41) to the TPNP parking lot on the right. Use the public boat launch on Old Kents Hill Road at the south end of Torsey Pond for water access.

**5. READFIELD TOWN FARM & FOREST.** This 110-acre tract of woodland is the site of the former town farm for the needy. Today the area offers hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature study on 2.3 miles of trails which connect with trails on the adjacent KLT Macdonald Conservation Area property. The property is also managed for wildlife and sustainable forestry. **Directions:** From Route 133 in Winthrop, turn north onto North Wayne Road. Go 1.3 miles and turn right onto Hathaway Road. Go 0.7 mile and turn left onto Belz Road. Just before the gate at the end, park with care on the left side of the road. Do not block the driveway or turnaround. Proceed on foot past the gate about 0.3 mile north on the old Town Farm Road. The property is also accessible from Macdonald Conservation Area (see description below).

**6. MILL STREAM DAM.** In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Factory Square was a major industrial area in Readfield where many manufacturing businesses were clustered. The site now features a footbridge across Mill Stream and the remains of a stone dam, spillway, and foundations. Trails allow access to the top of the dam, the stream and an overlook. Interpretative plaques recall Readfield's industrial past. **Directions:** Walk the short distance from Giles Road along Mill Stream Road to this significant historic and scenic spot or access from trail from Old Kents Hill Rd. just a short ways north from the Town Office.

**7. MARANACOOK COMMUNITY SCHOOL.** The MCS campus includes 320 acres. Trails around the middle and high schools offer hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature study. A graveled trail leading from the Superintendent's Office connects with the Fairgrounds trail system. The hillside visible from the access road provides great family sledding. Tennis courts, ballfields, and an outdoor track are also available when not in use by the schools. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.7 mile east on Main Street (Route 17), turn left onto Millard Harrison Drive. Trailhead at Superintendent's Office on left. School parking lots at end of road available during non-school hours.

**8. WYMAN MEMORIAL FOREST.** This 40-acre woodland was donated to the Kennebec Land Trust in 1993 by the heirs of Walter and Alice Wyman. After a red pine plantation on the property was affected by the ice storm of 1998, the land trust conducted a small logging operation to accelerate restoration to more natural conditions. The rest of the preserve is covered with mature, mixed-growth forest typical of recovering farmland. Trails ascend Monks Hill from Main Street and from Shedd Pond. **Directions:** From Main St. (Route 17), go 1.25 miles north on Gordon Rd. Turn right and go 0.9 mile on Scribner Hill Rd. There is a sign at the trailhead and parking along the right shoulder of the road.

**9. GANNETT WOODS.** Shedd Pond is important habitat for ducks, beavers, and other wildlife. In 2004, John and Pat Gannett donated 120 acres to the Kennebec Land Trust to ensure the shoreline of the pond would remain free of development. Snowmobiles are allowed on a maintained trail. No other off-road vehicles or overnight camping. A trail on the west side of the pond connects to the Wyman Memorial Forest. **Directions:** Follow directions to the Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest.

**10. ECHO LAKE WATERSHED PRESERVE.** This 200-acre parcel in the Echo Lake watershed was purchased in 2004 and 2008 with funds raised by the Echo Lake Association and Kennebec Land Trust. The property will remain undeveloped to help protect the water quality of Echo Lake and to provide for wildlife habitat. A short nature trail leads to an open bog. **Directions:** From Kents Hill, go approximately 1 mile north on Chimney Road (Route 41). Use the parking lot on the right at the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve. A plaque marks the Echo Lake Watershed Preserve across the road where the bog trail begins.

**11. MACDONALD CONSERVATION AREA.** The 100-acre Macdonald Conservation Area was donated to the Kennebec Land Trust by Douglas and Jessie Macdonald in 2003 to preserve wildlife habitat and open space for recreation. The former Readfield Town Farm (on the south), the Huntoon Cemetery (on the north), the Seldon Smith Homestead foundation (on the east), and the site of the former District 6 Schoolhouse (on the northeast) are noteworthy connections to Readfield's history. A 2.5-mile trail connects to the Readfield Town Farm & Forest trails. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 1.9 miles on Main Street (Route 17) and turn left onto P Ridge Road. Go 1 mile and turn right onto Lane Road. Go 0.6 mile to the end and turn left onto North Wayne Road (Innes Ridge Road in Wayne). Go 1.3 miles to the end and turn left onto Kents Hill Road. Go 0.2 mile and park on the left at the KLT sign. Do not block the road or driveways.

**12. ROSMARIN AND SAUNDERS FAMILY FOREST.** This property was donated to the Kennebec Land Trust KLT in 2016 by the Rosmarin family. It had been owned by the Saunders Manufacturing Co. Historically the property was farmed and pastured, though more recently it has been managed as a woodlot. The 342-acre property is an extensive conservation area with mixed woodlands, two perennial streams, a large beaver bog and four vernal pools. The one mile (+) Beaver Pond Loop trail begins at the parking area on the Nickerson Hill Road, follows the eastern side of the Beaver Pond and stream, and circles back to the parking area. From Route 41/17 in Readfield, turn onto Nickerson Hill Road. Travel for 0.6 miles to a small parking area on left.

**13. TYLER CONSERVATION AREA.** A 45-acre easement, donated by the Tyler family, protects wildlife habitat, provides for local recreation, and conserves the rural character of this Readfield neighborhood. A winter trail from Maranacook High School to Torsey Pond is used by snowmobilers. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.2 mile west on Main Street (Route 17). Turn right onto Old Kents Hill Road, then right at 0.6 mile onto Thundercastle Road. A small parking area is located on the right side of the road at about 0.7 mile. Look for the Tyler Conservation Area trailhead sign.

**14. KENTS HILL SCHOOL.** Luther Sampson, a Revolutionary War veteran, and Elihu Robinson, founder of a local apprenticeship school, started the Maine Wesleyan Seminary in 1824 in a small building on Kents Hill. Later renamed, the school has educated generations of young men and women from all over the world. Kents Hill School also shares its facilities with the local community. Trails throughout the woods offer opportunities for hiking, mountain-biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and nature study. Please respect the school activity schedule. **Directions:** From Main Street (Route 17), turn left at the sign for the Alford Athletics Center. Park away from the building. Trails run through the woods along the ridge and down to Lovejoy Pond.

**15. LUCE MEMORIAL FOREST.** This 78-acre property was conveyed to the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in 1991 by James M. Smith and Julia H.M. Smith Solmssen. Three contiguous parcels have been under professional management by NEFF since 1951. There are no marked trails, but the area is open for hiking, hunting, and other non-motorized recreation during day-time hours. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go west on Main St. (Route 17) 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Sturtevant Hill Rd. and go 2.2 miles. Turn right onto Huntoon Lane and go 0.3 mile. Park on the right at the sign for the Luce Memorial Forest.

**16. ALLEN-WHITNEY MEMORIAL FOREST.** Though located in Manchester, this 708-acre managed woodland connects to important open space lands in Readfield. The property was settled during colonial times by the Allen family, which was active in publishing and real estate in Augusta. Edward A. Whitney deeded the first parcel of this forest to the New England Forestry Foundation in 1955. A woods road system provides access for forest management as well as hiking, hunting, fishing, and nature study. Snowmobiles are allowed on maintained trails. No other off-road vehicles or camping are permitted. **Directions:** From Main Street (Route 17), go 1.25 miles north on Gordon Road. Turn right and go 2.5 miles on Scribner Hill Road. At the crest of a hill, park on the right at the sign for the Allen-Whitney Memorial Forest.

## Other Conservation Areas (with limited recreational access)

**17. READFIELD RECREATION LOT.** In 1934, Leon and Tessie Tibbetts donated this 2.5-acre property to the Town for recreation. **Directions:** The lot is located across Main Street (Route 17) from the Town Office

**18. PARKS LOT.** This small, forested parcel provides important wetland and wildlife habitat. It was given in 2006 to the Town of Readfield in memory of Guy Parks, Jr. by his heirs. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.1 mile east on Main Street (Route 17). The lot is on the left.

**19. READFIELD CORNER WATER ASSOCIATION.** This property is managed to protect the source of well water for a number of businesses and homes at Readfield Corner. It also provides 17.5 acres of important wildlife habitat and a connection to the Readfield Fairgrounds. It is available for quiet day use recreation. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.3 mile north on Church Road. Park at the Readfield Fairgrounds across the road.

**20. AVERY-SMITH SHORE LAND.** Dr. Mary Ellen Avery and her family donated this beautiful 7-acre parcel on Echo Lake to the Kennebec Land Trust in 1991. It is a woodland wonderland with cedar, pine, birch, and wildflowers along 1,200 feet of unspoiled shoreline. The property does not have trails and is best viewed from the water. **Directions:** The closest water access is the boat launch in West Mount Vernon at the northeast end of Echo Lake.

**21. WESTMAN WOODS.** Ilse Westman wanted these 26 acres preserved as wildlife habitat, so she donated this area to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2006. The upper part is early successional habitat, mostly hardwoods. The lower portion has an older conifer forest. There are no marked trails. **Directions:** From Main Street (Route 17), go 0.9 mile on South Road. Park with care along the side of the road.

**22. ST. ANDRE FIELDS.** In 1995, John and Beppe St. Andre donated a conservation easement to the Kennebec Land Trust to maintain the scenic beauty of these fields. There are no trails, but the fields are open for nature observation except during the late spring and summer when the hay crop is growing. The easement covers the fields on the north and south sides of Quarry Drive. **Directions:** From Main Street (Route 17), go 0.9 mile on South Road. Turn left and park along the southeastern edge of Quarry Drive. Do not to block the road.

**23. TORSEY POND OUTLET CONSERVATION AREA.** This easement was donated to the Kennebec Land Trust in 2005 to preserve water quality and wildlife habitat. It protects 12.5 acres and over 1200 feet of valuable shoreland on the west side of Torsey Pond near the outlet. Public access is by permission only.

**24. CARLETON POND.** In the early 1900s, the Augusta Water District acquired more than 700 acres (568 acres in Readfield) around Carleton Pond for watershed protection. The Maine Legislature designated the area a game preserve in 1931. An additional 40 acres were donated in 1996 to the Water District with a permanent conservation easement granted to the Kennebec Land Trust. Today, this area includes a diversity of wildlife habitats. White-tailed deer, beavers, foxes, turkeys, and a wide variety of birds, amphibians, and reptiles call the area home. A snowmobile trail runs through the property. Other public access is by permission only though other trails may be developed in the future.

**25. LAKESIDE ORCHARDS.** Jacob Pope planted the first apple trees here in the 1870s. The farm now encompasses 189 acres with thousands of apple trees. In 1999, the Maine Department of Agriculture acquired a conservation easement on Lakeside Orchards with funding from the state Land for Maine's Future and federal Farmland Protection programs. Lakeside Orchards operates a retail store on Route 17 in Manchester. Public access is by permission only.

**26. KENTS HILL ORCHARD.** This 91.6-acre property was purchased by Maine Farmland Trust in 2010 and subsequently sold to Belle Vue Farm, LLC in 2011 subject to a conservation easement. Much of the historic orchard has been removed and replaced by commercial corn and vegetable fields. Public access is by permission only except for a snowmobile trail.

**27. OLD FAIRGROUNDS FIELD.** Originally part of the historic Readfield Fairgrounds, this 15-acre parcel is owned in common by the members of the Old Fairgrounds Landowners Association and protected as open space by deed restrictions. Public access is by permission only.

## Water Access Sites

**28. MARANACOOK LAKE.** The Maine Department of Conservation maintains an access site with a ramp to launch boats, plus parking for vehicles and trailers and a grassy area for picnicking. The Town of Readfield owns the wetland south of the launch. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.6 mile south on Winthrop Road (Route 41) to the boat launch on the left.

**29. TORSEY POND.** At the south end of Torsey Pond the Maine Department of Conservation has a hand-carry site providing access for canoes, kayaks, and small boats. This shallow lake is popular for warm water fishing as well as wildlife watching in the marsh near the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve. Across the road is the site of an historic dam and mill works. No ramp or float. Minimal parking. **Directions:** From Readfield Corner, go 0.2 mile west on Main Street (Route 17). Turn right and go 0.8 mile on Old Kents Hill Road to the boat launch on the right.

**NOTE:** There is public access to Echo Lake on Route 41 in West Mount Vernon. There are no public launch sites on Brainard, Carleton, Lovejoy, or Mill Ponds. There is walking access to Shedd Pond.

## Snowmobile Trails

More than 30 miles of snowmobile trails crisscross Readfield. Most are on private land, so please respect landowner property rights. Do not damage groomed trails. No ATVs on the trails at any time. Trails may change from year to year. Readfield Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club sells trail maps.

## Cemeteries

Seven cemeteries throughout Readfield offer quiet spots for walks with historic interest as they tie the past to the present. No dogs allowed.

- A. Kents Hill Cemetery (1808)
- B. Huntoon Cemetery (1835)
- C. Readfield Corner Cemetery (1808)
- D. Armstrong Cemetery (1800s)
- E. Whittier Cemetery (1800s)
- F. Dudley Plains Cemetery (1789)
- G. East Readfield Cemetery (1788)
- H. Case Cemetery (1787)